

March 8, 2016

Substitute SB 422: An Act Concerning Residential Water Rates, Public Drinking Water Supply Emergencies and the Sellers of Bottled Water

Hearing date: Friday, March 11, 2016

To: Senator Osten and Representative Miller and the other Members of the Planning and Development Committee

“Our actions today should be determined on the impact it will have on the next seven generations”, said Fred Kirschenmann(a Distinguished Fellow for the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University and President of Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture in Pocantico Hills, New York) at the Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA) conference in 2014. Bottled water goes against all good sense and has created a major negative environmental impact, all for padding the bottom line of corporations.

The lack of oversight on the MDC (Metropolitan District Commission) and Niagara Bottling deal is very disturbing on many accounts. Our public water source is being used for corporate gain, they have been offered unbelievable large-volume rate discount, residents are asked to conserve during drought times long before high-volume corporate accounts are asked to cutback, the CEO of the MDC was just give huge raise and pension deal, plastic bottle creation is toxic. So many red flags here. And when this deal came to the public’s attention this hit a live wire. Please act to protect the citizens’ water source from corporate greed.

We need to:

- **Rescind water rate discounts for water bottlers.** They extract large amounts of our municipal water and spring water, fill the environment with plastic pollution, and profit while citizens are conserving and paying more.
- **Rescind the *Special Sewer Service Charge* discount for water bottlers (now known as the *Clean Water Project Charge*).** CT ratepayers have paid for years to build infrastructure for clean water; no discounts for corporations.
- **Protect residents, not water bottlers during a drought.** If the DPH declares a Drought Advisory, the production of bottled water in CT needs to stop.
- **Re-establish a citizen MDC (Metropolitan District Commission) watch dog committee.**
- **Impose a moratorium on any new large capacity agreements** until the State Water Plan is completed and addresses the issue of water bottling companies diverting water out of watersheds.

I urge you to support substitute SB422.

Sincerely,

Ann Reynolds

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